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Celebrity Buzz
Details hold up Sheen plea deal
pg 22

World pg 4
Obama talks tough on spill

HST to open up tax deals south of the border

EXEMPTION The imminent switch to the HST in B.C. and Ontario will mean residents of those provinces won't have to pay sales tax on some goods purchased in Washington state.

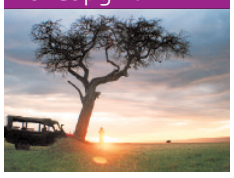
The state government says the tax exemption applies to goods purchased for use outside the state after the HST is adopted July 1.

Washington allows retailers to wave the state's 6.5 per cent sales tax for residents of jurisdictions with sales taxes of three per cent or less.

When B.C. and Ontario blend their provincial sales taxes with the federal GST, the state will consider their sales taxes to be zero because the HST is considered a value-added tax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travel pg 16



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Whitecaps' new look B.C.-proud

Logo topped by mountains unveiled as team readies for Major League Soccer

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Vancouver Whitecaps FC looked to the city's natural surroundings for inspiration for the new logo that will herald their arrival into North America's top soccer league in March.

Unveiled yesterday at the new Vancouver Convention Centre, the logo marks a switch to navy blue from the team's traditional royal blue.

It features "Vancouver Whitecaps FC" sandwiched by stylized North Shore mountains in white and their reflection on the water.

The reflection is marked in the lighter shade that the team calls "Whitecaps blue" in tribute to the colour of their jerseys when they won the North American Soccer League's Soccer Bowl championship in 1979.

"I think it's one that fans will be very proud to wear," said Whitecaps FC CEO Paul Barber. "It's very traditional looking in terms of the soccer world and at the same time combines the best of this city."

Team president Bob Lenarduzzi said the design was a yearlong project and one in which majority owner Greg Kerfoot took a hands-on role.

"We actually matched (the logo) with some of the more famous clubs around the world — Chelsea, Barcelona," Lenarduzzi said. "If you look at ours, it has the classic look to it that I think will definitely stand the test of time."

The logo is the sixth in Whitecaps/86ers history dating back to the original red-and-white soccer ball from 1974.

Consultation on the new logo was extensive, Lenarduzzi said, involving staff, ownership and fans.

Scarves and T-shirts with the new logo are available at whitecapsfc.com.

Season tickets

- The Whitecaps FC announced that they have hit 10,000 season ticket deposits and would begin taking the final wave of deposits beginning Saturday at 10 a.m.
- Season tickets for the inaugural season will be capped at 16,500, CEO Paul Barber said.
- Tickets will start at $319 for 17 home games.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver Whitecaps FC president Bob Lenarduzzi and CEO Paul Barber show off the team's new logo yesterday at the new Vancouver Convention Centre.

Council makes city hall available to anti-HST petitioners

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

COUNCIL Anti-HST organizers will be allowed to petition within the confines of Vancouver's city hall, council voted yesterday afternoon.

The motion to allow Fight HST to collect signatures within the building was approved almost unanimously (NPA Coun. Suzanne Anton was the lone vote opposed).

"This is part of making sure democracy works for all the citizens of Vancouver," said COPE Coun. Ellen Woodsworth, who introduced the motion.

Vancouver's decision came the same day the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs announced they would join with former premier Bill Vander Zalm in a possible legal challenge of the pending tax.

A day earlier, Vancouver's park board voted 5-2 to allow petitioners to set up in the lobbies of community centres.

Commissioner Raj Hundal, who brought the motion forward, said the wording of the final motion was changed because of a legal opinion to include the Recall and Initiative Act, the legislation behind the petition.

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Local

Emery in solitary confinement

Vancouver's Prince of Pot, Marc Emery, left, has been locked in solitary confinement since Thursday at a federal detention centre in Washington State for partaking in a podcast over the phone, his wife said yesterday.

METRO VANCOUVER

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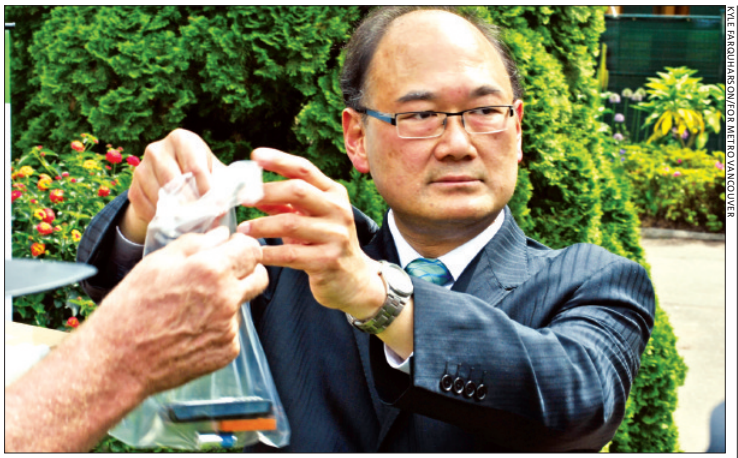
Feds move to protect glass sponge reef

ENVIRONMENT A rare and delicate sea sponge reef in B.C., once believed extinct for 30 million years, moved a step closer to permanent protection yesterday.

Ottawa has designated a section of the Hecate Strait, which contains the glass sponge reef, an "area of interest." The announcement comes one day after Environment Minister Jim Prentice tabled legislation to create a marine conservation area adjacent to Gwaii Haanas National Park in southern Haida Gwaii.

Scientists discovered B.C.'s glass sponges, now considered "living fossils," in 1987.

KYLE FARQUHARSON/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER



KYLE FARQUHARSON FOR METRO VANCOUVER

B.C. Minister of State for Climate Action John Yap demonstrates the battery-recycling process at a launch event in Stanley Park yesterday.

Recycle your household batteries

INITIATIVE Old batteries clogging up the kitchen drawer? No problem.

British Columbia is now the first North American jurisdiction to feature a free government-mandated recycling program for all household batteries.

B.C. Minister of State for Climate Action John Yap and the HouseSmart Referral Network's Shell Busey joined the program's CEO, Carl Smith, in making the announcement yesterday.

The Call2Recycle program, active in the province since 1997, will expand to include all lithium ion and rechargeable batteries under five kilograms. It will recycle cellphones and electronic devices, but exclude car batteries.

"By recycling these devices, we reduce the need for raw materials in B.C.," said Yap.

Recycling would also prevent dangerous heavy metals from leaching into the environment, he added.

According to Brock Macdonald, executive director of the Recycling Council of B.C., the program will generate roughly six recycling jobs in the province for each landfill job it obviates.

KYLE FARQUHARSON/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

School board denied funds

Talks fail as minister blames 'poor choices' for cash crunch

B.C.'s education minister has denied a request for emergency funding by Vancouver School Board trustees, saying the cash crisis the board is facing is their own fault.

"This is not an emergency," Margaret MacDiarmid said after meeting with trustees. "This is a situation where poor choices that the board has made have diverted millions of dollars from the classroom to other areas."

The two sides met for the first time yesterday after a scathing report released last week by the province's comptroller general.

Vancouver School Board chairwoman Patti Bacchus said the minister walked out of what was supposed to be an hour-long meeting, but MacDiarmid said she left after 45 minutes to attend another event.

"The Vancouver School Board was very dismissive of the majority of the recommendations the comptroller general has made, saying that they're doing an outstanding job and there's no need for them to change," she said. "That is a great concern to me."

Bacchus said the money woes mean a reinstatement of all program and staff cuts announced earlier this year to address a multimillion-dollar deficit.

She said trustees will consider a revised budget on June 14 and hold a final vote on June 23, less than a week before elementary schools break for the summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blog SpinDoctor on why BP's attempts at Gulf spill damage control were doomed from the start

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News in brief

DEATH An 11-year-old child has died from his injuries after he was struck by car in New Westminster. The accident occurred at Sixth Avenue and McBride Boulevard at 8 a.m. Monday. New Westminster police are appealing for witnesses. No one is in custody or being sought by police.

TRANSIT TransLink revenues were $7.5 million higher than budgeted while expenses were $25.8 million lower than budget in the first quarter of 2010. As a result, a forecast deficit of $10 million was turned into a $24-million operating surplus.

INQUIRY Dates were set yesterday to continue the inquiry into the 1998 death of Frank Paul, who died of exposure after Vancouver police dumped him in an alley. The Davies Commission Inquiry aims to hear testimony from three former Crown lawyers who decided not to lay charges in Paul's death.

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Canadian grass, not soccer team, heading to World Cup
Canada's soccer team didn't qualify for the World Cup in South Africa, but some of the country's best grass did. Pickseed, a company based in Lindsay, Ont., spent four years developing a special blend of grass that can withstand the stomping of soccer feet, regrow quickly and spread thickly. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada/World

News in brief

STEM CELLS It's "irresponsible and despicable" that many overseas clinics are purporting to offer stem cell treatments for people with illnesses without any scientific evidence, says the head of Canada's Stem Cell Network. A study group report released yesterday by the International Society for Stem Cell Research aims to educate those who might be tempted, by providing criteria for people to evaluate claims made by hundreds of these so-called "rogue" clinics around the world.

TASERS The secretary general for Amnesty International Canada says while there have been great strides to improve stun gun use in Canada, there needs to be a strict set of national standards. Alex Neve said yesterday the federal government needs to show leadership to ensure new standards for use of the weapons apply to all police forces, and not just the RCMP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Virginia **Kiss and make up?**

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae kisses Yasser Abbas, son of Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, during a news conference in Arlington, Va., yesterday. Rae met with his father, Mahmoud Abbas, to "make sure that we build some kind of momentum for a real two-state solution" for the Israeles and Palestinians.

PMO micromanaging diplomats, probe finds

Bottled Messages
Special Report

The long arm of Tory message control has reached around the world in an attempt to orchestrate virtually every public utterance by seasoned diplomats, from Britain to Bangladesh, an investigation by The Canadian Press concludes.

The secret to this unprecedented attempt to stage-manage Canada's most experienced high commissioners, ambassadors and diplomats is the Message Event Proposal — a finely developed information tool aimed at giving the Prime Minister's Office total control over communication. MEPs obtained under the Access to Information Act reveal how Stephen Harper's office has employed the device to micromanage Canadian diplomacy in the United States, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Asia and Africa. Even the most able and trusted of Canada's foreign service officers have been subjected to strict controls by the PMO through its public service arm, the Privy Council Office.

"There's no question it has a bit of a chilling effect on people, because they know that they have to avoid being off-message at all — and that's what the government wants," said one currently serving diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The central direction of foreign service officers is unparalleled, says retired diplomat Gordon Smith, who served Conservative and Liberal prime ministers as Canada's ambassador to NATO and the European Union, was a former deputy minister of Foreign Affairs and a senior official at PCO.

"What other conclusion can one draw? But it reflects a very considerable concentration of power in the Prime Minister's Office," said Smith, who left government to join the University of Victoria in 1997.

A PCO spokeswoman has defended the government's use of MEPs, saying they are a tool for communication.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama talks tough on Gulf oil spill

CRISIS U.S. President Barack Obama says his talks with Gulf fishermen and oil spill experts are not an academic exercise. It's "so I know whose ass to kick."

One target for the presidential foot: Tony Hayward, the embattled chief executive of BP PLC.

Obama was asked by NBC Today show host Matt Lauer about Hayward's past comments that "I want my life back," that the Gulf was "a big ocean" and that "the environmental impact of this disaster is likely to be very, very modest."

"He wouldn't be working for me after any of those statements," Obama said.

"I don't sit around just talking to experts because this is a college seminar, we talk to these folks because they potentially have the best answers — so I know whose ass to kick." U.S. President Barack Obama

The interview aired yesterday. It was part of a stepped up White House effort to show that Obama is actively engaged in dealing with the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

Obama said he has talked to a variety of "experts" on the oil spill in addition to the fishermen.

"I don't sit around just talking to experts because this is a college seminar, we talk to these folks because they potentially have the best answers — so I know whose ass to kick," the president said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/world for an exclusive photo gallery from the Gulf Coast oil disaster.
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Gaza Strip **Border lineups**

EYAD BABA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Palestinian girl sleeps on luggage as she waits to cross into Egypt at the Rafah border crossing in Gaza yesterday. The opening of Gaza's border has hundreds crowding around officials to learn when, and if, they can cross into Egypt.

News in brief

FLU The head of the World Health Organization said yesterday that her decisions about the H1N1 virus were not influenced by advisers' links to pharmaceutical companies, pointed out in a report.

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Comment

Barely treading water in lake of debt

TheWestView

This is the first time I've ever agreed with Chief Bloc Head Gilles Duceppe.

The indoor fake lake planned for the G8 summit in a Toronto media centre — right next to Lake Ontario — is indeed "one of the funniest things I've ever heard."

The only thing funnier was that photograph of Canada's national separatist wearing a shower cap at a cheese factory during the 1997 federal election. But I digress.

The fact that you and I are paying $2 million for the lake by the lake (complete with Muskoka chairs) as an amenity for international journalists who may be intimidated by a real lake and need to stay indoors is not so funny.

Nor is the estimated $2-billion price tag for both the G20 in Toronto and the G8 in the real Muskoka. That's a lot of money for a meeting (well, two meetings). Haven't these world leaders ever heard of Skype?

Especially when the meeting is about how to get out of the global financial glue. They should all be eating cheese sandwiches on park benches in Allan Gardens. The simple truth is they can't afford any more. The U.S. national debt alone is north of $13 trillion, which is 90 per cent of its GDP. Do you have any idea how much a trillion dollars is? Neither do I, but to go through it we'd have to spend $1 every second for the next 31,000 years.

Or we could just get the U.S. government to do it for us: Washington will spend $1.6 trillion more than it makes in just one year.

Canada's national debt is more modest — a mere $527.5 billion (and counting) but isn't it bad form for a bunch of bankrupt oligarchs to be throwing around the peasants' money on fake lakes when they should all be sent to bed without their suppers and no allowance for an entire month?

I realize the lion's share of the cost for the G8/G20 blowout is for security. Someone could fall into the fake lake, never mind the real one right next to it. But the Harper administration is sparing no expense to talk about the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Maybe the fake lake is an appropriate symbol after all. We're all under water. And we have no idea how to get our heads back above the water line. Washington, for example, has started taking online donations. I kid you not: Check this out: www.pay.gov/paygov/forms/formInstance.html?agencyFormId=23779454.

Here in Canada, the Harper government doesn't bother to ask. It's enough to make a separatist smile.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Will you be cheering for anyone at the start of the World Cup?

Jasmin Rusch
Visiting from Switzerland

A: Of course I'm cheering for the Swiss. I'm not really sure they have a good chance to win though. I like South Africa, too, but that's a really long shot. In the end, probably Spain will win the World Cup.

Luya Tshimbalanga
Vancouver

A: I'd like to see an African team win this year, perhaps Cameroon. This is a good year (for Cameroon's team); they have a lot of potential. They may not make the final but I hope they do well. I also like Brazil.

Jordan Huffman
Vancouver

A: I haven't really been following soccer because I don't have a TV, but I plan to watch the World Cup at some of the Italian bars near Commercial (Drive). I'm happy to be involved in the excitement, although I'm impartial.

Zokpah Dahn
Halifax

A: I'd say Spain or Brazil ... I'm (also hoping) for a team from Africa to win. It's the first time for the World Cup in Africa.

Nicole Pontes
Ottawa

A: Portugal, because of my nationality. And Cristiano Ronaldo is pretty sexy.

Harrison Fine
Toronto

A: I don't really follow it that closely but I do know that Brazil usually wins. Since it's in South Africa and I like going for the underdogs, I'll say I'm cheering for them.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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GM announces massive recall
General Motors Co. announced yesterday a recall of about 1.5 million trucks, crossovers and cars from model years 2006 to 2009 due to a potential fire hazard. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Report pushes feds to innovate

Put improvements before inventions: Think-tank

The Canadian government puts too much emphasis on invention, and not enough on innovation — even though the latter drives economic prosperity, according to a new report from a competitiveness think-tank.

Government policy tends to support inventions at the expense of improvements in existing products or processes that would provide value to consumers, says the provincially funded Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity.

For instance, the latest federal budget increased funding for the research granting councils by $32 billion. Of this increase, $29 billion was directed to sciences and health research, and only $3 billion to social sciences and humanities, which would include business schools and executive management programs.

"We need science-based discovery as a foundation for innovation. But our prosperity is the result of business innovation that adds value to our day-to-day lives," said Roger Martin, chair of the institute.

The report argues against government cuts in education as a means to dealing with sky-high deficits. That was the approach Ottawa took in the mid-1990s, and it would be a mistake to do it again, the institute said.

Canada once invested in education at nearly the same per capita rate as the U.S., but has fallen behind by as much as 21 per cent.

"We must continue making investments in education to increase access for all Canadians to post secondary education, to raise the number of master's graduates, and to improve the classroom experience for students," the report said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hong Kong 'Bloody Apple'

VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters pray for the Foxconn workers who committed suicide next to a doctored cardboard cutout of Apple Inc.'s chief executive Steve Jobs at an Apple Inc. premium reseller in Hong Kong yesterday. Protesters picketed Foxconn's annual general meeting and targeted Apple retailers, accusing both the computer giant and its supplier of poor corporate ethics after a recent spate of suicides at Foxconn factories in China.

Construction slows as housing market cools

HOUSING New home construction slowed in May as the number of startups last month fell below economists' expectations — the latest indicator that Canada's once white-hot housing market is cooling off.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp reported yesterday that the annual rate of housing starts dropped last month, pegging the rate at 189,100 units in May, down from a revised 201,800 in April.

Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist at the Bank of Montreal, said May's figures were below expectations but "hardly a shock."

"The surprise so far in 2010 had been how quickly starts had ramped up from their depressed levels a year ago," Porter wrote in a note yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

TECHNOLOGY Google has admitted it "screwed up" and is giving European authorities the private data it accidentally collected with its Street View cars. The admission comes on the heels of Canadian Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart announcing an investigation into the same thing. The Street View images have been used to create street-level maps. Google chief executive Eric Schmidt said on Friday the company would start transferring the information this week. A spokeswoman confirmed the information would be sent to German, French and Spanish data-protection authorities. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OIL The chief executive of Imperial Oil Ltd. says the massive spill from a BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico will bring greater scrutiny to the industry in general, not just offshore producers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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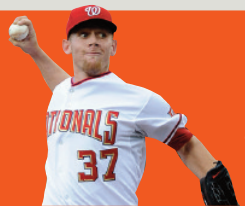
Wozniak advances at Aegon Classic

Canadian Aleksandra Wozniak advanced to the second round of the Aegon Classic yesterday. Wozniak, the ninth-seeded player from Blainville, Que., did well to quell the serve-and-volley threat from Australia's Alicia Molik, winning 7-5, 6-1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Strasburg dazzles in debut

Over-hyped? Are you kidding? Stephen Strasburg went beyond the hype — and anyone's reasonable expectations — by striking out 14 batters in his electric major league debut. With a standing-room-only crowd cheering every pitch, the Washington Nationals phenom put on a dazzling display of pitching power last night in a 5-2 win over Pittsburgh. His fastballs reached 100 m.p.h., and the Pirates found his nasty curves nearly impossible to hit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

NBA Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert refused to comment yesterday on reports he has offered a job to Michigan State's Tom Izzo and said superstar free agent LeBron James will not be consulted during the team's search for a new coach. Speaking at a news conference, Gilbert strongly refuted theories that James has had input on previous hires, the firing of coach Mike Brown and general manager Danny Ferry's recent departure.

NHL Scott Arniel is the new head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets. The 47-year-old was the head coach of the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League for the past four seasons.

CFL Tickets for the 98th Grey Cup game in Edmonton this fall have sold out just one week after they went on sale. The CFL championship is being played Nov. 28 at Commonwealth Stadium, which seats more than 60,000. It's believed to be the fastest and earliest sellout of Grey Cup tickets on record.

HOCKEY Bodychecking more than triples the risk of injury and concussion in peewee hockey, according to a study conducted by the University of Calgary. Researchers compared rates of injury between peewee teams in Alberta and Quebec. Bodychecking is allowed at the peewee level in Alberta but not in Quebec.

TENNIS Andy Roddick began the chase for his fifth title at Queen's Club with a clinical 6-2, 6-1 defeat of Russian Igor Kunitsyn yesterday, joining defending champion Andy Murray in the third round. The fourth-seeded American fired 12 aces, faced just one break point and tied up victory in only 50 minutes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Tampa Bay 9 Toronto 0
Boston 3 Cleveland 2
Detroit 7 Chicago White Sox 2
Minnesota 7 Kansas City 3
N.Y. Yankees 12 Baltimore 7
Texas 7 Seattle 1
L.A. Angels 10 Oakland 1

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

Houston 4 Colorado 3
Milwaukee 3 Chicago Cubs 2
N.Y. Mets 2 San Diego 1 (11 ings)
Philadelphia 10 Florida 8
San Francisco 3 Cincinnati 0
Washington 5 Pittsburgh 2
Atlanta 7 Arizona 5
L.A. Dodgers 1 St. Louis 0

NHL PLAYOFFS

TODAY'S GAME

Chicago at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

L.A. Lakers 91 Boston 84 (L.A. leads series 2-1)

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Flyers know what's at stake: Pronger

Veteran says he's focused on Game 6, not the past

Chris Pronger wore his usual relaxed manner and impish grin when he faced the media yesterday, as though the ugly numbers he put up in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup final never happened.

The Flyers defenceman was probably right to insist he didn't play that badly, despite going minus-5 and being on the ice for six of the Chicago Blackhawks' seven goals in a 7-4 victory that put the Flyers on the brink of elimination. On the other goal, he was in the penalty box.

One went in off his leg, another was blocked by his leg but went right to an opponent for a pass and a goal, another saw goalie Michael Leighton beat on a long shot that no defenceman could prevent.

So instead of dwelling on it, he's looking for the entire Philadelphia team to bounce back with a strong effort at home in Game 6 tonight (CBC, 5 p.m. PT) to try to force a decisive seventh game in Chicago two nights later. The Blackhawks lead the best-of-seven series 3-2.

"I've already started to focus on Game 6 and I'm not really worried about it," Pronger said of the Game 5 debacle, in which the speedy Blackhawks skated rings around the Flyers through the first period, then got timely goals as Philadelphia battled back.

"I don't know if you've watched much of the video but I have. There's not a whole lot you can do when a puck bounces off your shin pad and goes in the net — a couple of times. So I'm not worried. It could easily have gone the other way."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDRE RINGUETTE/GETTY IMAGES

Michael Leighton of the Philadelphia Flyers pauses for a drink during practice yesterday in Philadelphia.

Leighton gets the nod

- Flyers coach Peter Laviolette ended any debate over who will start in goal in Game 6 by giving a public nod to Michael Leighton yesterday. Leighton was pulled from Game 5 after allowing three first-period goals.

Lakers take series lead

(L.A. Lakers lead series 2-1)

Lakers 91 **Celtics** 84

NBA Kobe Bryant scored 29 points and Derek Fisher added 16 to lead Los Angeles to a 91-84 victory over the Boston Celtics last night and give the Lakers a 2-1 lead in the NBA finals.

Bryant had 25 points after three but did not score for the first 10 minutes of the fourth quarter. That's when Fisher took over, adding four key baskets after Boston winnowed a 17-point first-half lead to one point.

The Lakers regained home-court advantage they had lost when Boston took Game 2 in Los Angeles.

Game 4 is tomorrow night in Boston.

Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum had 10 rebounds apiece for Los Angeles.

Kevin Garnett, who had just six points in Boston's victory Sunday, had 25 in Game 3. But Ray Allen, who had 32 points in Game 2, missed all 13 field goal attempts — one shy of the NBA finals futility record.

The Celtics had high hopes after splitting the opening two games in Los Angeles, but the "Beat L.A.!" chants at the TD Garden couldn't help them overcome poor shooting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plenty at stake in weekend's main event

UFC **Vancouver**

Craig Nielsen

metronews.ca/sports

Mixed Martial Arts is one of the fastest growing sports, and this weekend the world's biggest MMA promotion comes to town. UFC 115 — the quickest UFC sellout ever — puts Vancouver on the MMA map.

This weekend's main event pits two UFC legends against one another. Both Chuck (The Iceman) Liddell and Rich (Ace) Franklin have been on both ends of brain-jarring shots. But make no mistake, while both might have chins of steel, their heads are for numbers.

Franklin taught high school math before getting into MMA full time. Liddell graduated in 1995 with an accounting degree. Besides being able to do their taxes, both have acting talents — Liddell even did a turn on Dancing with the Stars. Perhaps most telling is that both come off as mild mannered, thoughtful men.

Similarities aside, this is a must-win fight for both. Liddell and Franklin are on the "downside" of their careers and the loser will likely ponder retirement. It makes for an exciting fight for a city that often leads the way in per-capita UFC pay-per-view buys.

That popularity is due largely to the promotion's openness to regulation. The rules of UFC allow for excitement and safety. That way neither Liddell or Franklin have anything to fear — except losing.

But don't worry. Should he want to, the man who takes the fall Saturday will have a good career to fall back on.

Craig Nielsen is the host of the MMA Report on the TEAM 1410.

Where the action is

UFC headliner Chuck (The Iceman) Liddell has been spotted in Vancouver. If you don't want to leave UFC star spotting to chance, here is the schedule for UFC fighters today and tomorrow.

- **Today, noon:** Liddell along with the other UFC 115 headliners will be holding open workouts at the Sheraton Wall Centre.
- **Tomorrow, noon:** UFC President Dana White holds his pre-fight press conference at GM Place. Fighters will attend.

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$15 million for UCN The Pas campus expansion

The Manitoba government announced this week a $15 million investment in the University College of the North campus in The Pas, funding renovations to the existing campus and a new library and child-care facility. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

No more credit cards for VIU tuition

Effective this September, Vancouver Island University will no longer accept credit card payments for tuition or for student union and activity fees. The cost to administer credit card payments at the university is over $420,000 per year, with credit card fees between $330,000 and $340,000 annually. VIU joins a number of Canadian institutions that have either stopped accepting credit cards for tuition payments or are considering such a policy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Time to harness your star power

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

You're the new hotshot on the corporate block but nobody's heard of you? Maybe it's time to look at your promotional strategy.

Formulating a branding plan is the first rule of virtually every notable personality — from U.S. President Barack Obama to Ellen De Generes.

"The common thread of success among (celebrities) is the fame formula," notes Maggie Jessup, co-author of Fame 101, a book dedicated to professional success secrets. "They packaged their expertise into compelling personal brands, used Hollywood-level publicity to get visible and then promoted their brands to celebrity-hungry target communities."

Maggie and partner Jay Jessup know how celebrities become popular, rich and happy due to their experience in their own publicity/branding boutique, Platform Strategy. Everyone from start-up gurus and scientists to actors, authors, lawyers and royalty have utilized their services with great success.

"People who promote and publicize their personal brand enjoy three strong benefits: Greater visibility, enhanced credibility and increased income."
Fame 101 co-author Jay Jessup

Taking that experience to study the career models of 75 celebrities, the Jessups have boiled down branding's rudimentary aspects into Fame 101.

"People who promote and publicize their personal brand enjoy three strong benefits: Greater visibility, enhanced credibility and increased income," notes Jay, reiterating that victory relies on creating a familiar, friendly visage.

You can maintain publicity by being snappy and entertaining, write a book — "A successful book will change anyone's professional life overnight" — and speak publicly whenever possible in order to connect with large groups fast.

"Look around at the next big event you attend," he adds. "The big brands are onstage delivering a 20-minute talk. It could easily be you. Very visible people are simply more successful. Personal branding done well delivers increased credibility and that in turn gives you an edge in any professional activity. Great personal brands attract clients, win career opportunities and enjoy substantial financial rewards."

Fame 101 authors highlight five favourite, brilliantly executed personal brands

- **John Travolta:** Went from B-list player to million-dollar movie superstar, "by harnessing the power of publicity and continuously evolving his personal brand."
- **Rachael Ray:** From grocery-store aisle pitch girl to cooking superstar with television shows, a magazine and book deals, "she's adept at personal branding and publicity but stays on top by remaining nice despite becoming one of the era's most powerful brands."
- **President Obama and Sarah Palin:** "Politics aside, each has captured and maintained a niche with the most powerful branding, publicity and promotion of the millennium."
- **Ellen De Generes:** "We don't even need to say her last name, her brand is that powerful. Ellen is a great example of the lifetime value of consistently working on your personal brand while staying visible."

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Think twice before taking on old clients

WorkplaceLaw

Employment is a two-way street. Just as they can be dismissed without notice, employees are not "owned." They are always free to leave. However, disputes often arise when they try to take their clients with them.

Since clients' affiliations often lie with the relationships that are built and the key employees who have built them, courts permit employers to protect their clients through contractual limits on post-employment solicitation.

But what happens when there is no contract at all?

To many clients, professional engineers Robert Whyte and Bill Dainty were the "face" of their firm, Aquafor Beech. As well, their work accounted for a quarter of the company's revenue.

In the fall of 2003, Whyte and Dainty left Aquafor and established their own competing engineering firm, Calder Engineering. Many of their clients remained with Aquafor; however, a few decided to leave and continue their relationships with Calder along with two more Aquafor employees.

Aquafor suspected that Whyte and Dainty had acted inappropriately by improperly soliciting clients and employees.

However, Aquafor did not have employment contracts with Whyte and Dainty that prohibited them from working for a competitor or soliciting its clients. Without contracts, there is nothing to stop ordinary employees from leaving and then competing for business. But this is not the case for fiduciary employees, who have obligations to their former employers and can render them vulnerable both during and after their departure.

If you're considered a fiduciary employee by your employer, you may be required to act in the best interests of that company even after you've left, which includes soliciting former clients.

Since they played significant roles at Aquafor, the court ascribed to them fiduciary titles. However, there was no evidence of unfair competition, so Aquafor's case was dismissed.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Canadian universities golden at EcoCAR Challenge

Three Canadian university teams participating in the EcoCAR Challenge in San Diego have been named winners of individual awards. The University of Victoria , the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and the University of Waterloo all won awards. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

Silverado priced

GM of Canada has announced the base price of the new 2011 Chevrolet Silverado HD pickup: The 2500 regular cab 2WD model starts at $35,600.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Highlander Hybrid hip enough

Green living, suburban style co-exist in SUV

NEIL MOORE
for Metro Canada

Clean, unadorned sheet metal, big 19-inch alloys and a distinctive trapezoidal front grille give the 2010 Toyota Highlander Hybrid a strong presence.

It seems quite the contradiction — the hybrid SUV.

Hybrids — in general — are the darlings of the urban "greenie," along with cloth grocery bags, fair trade lattes and David Suzuki documentaries.

SUVs on the other hand are the flagships of suburban excess. When they're not taking the lone executive on his or her daily two-hour commute, these gas guzzlers are loaded up with kids' soccer teams or schlepping mass quantities of boxes and cans from the local Costco.

Can these two interests co-exist?

I'd say "yes" as many of the former eventually have kids and move out to the 'burbs. And besides, not all of us who have shunned downtown living hate the environment.

Still, there aren't many hybrid SUVs on the market. Among them are the behemoth Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon hybrids, the compact Ford Escape hybrid, the premium Lexus RX 450h (starting at just under $60K) and the even pricier (and less green) BMW ActiveHybrid X6, priced at just under $100K.

The Highlander Hybrid, starting at $43,025, is comparatively well priced, and for a mid-sized SUV, is surprisingly roomy and can realistically accommodate up to seven passengers.

2010 Toyota Highlander Hybrid

Type: mid-size SUV
Price: base $43,025
Engine: DOHC 3.3 Litre DOHC, 24-Valve V6
Fuel Economy: 7.4/8.0/7.7 L/100 km (city/hwy/combined)

Highlights

- Accommodates up to seven passengers
- Upscale looks

Some have criticized its styling, calling it slab-sided and plain. I like its uncluttered sheet metal. And when decked out in Limited trim — as was my tester for the week — with its big 19-inch alloys and roof-mounted spoiler, the Highlander looks quite upscale.

Like all Highlanders, it is powered by 3.3 Litre DOHC, 24-Valve V6, working with high-torque electric motors front and rear. Combined, Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive delivers 270 hp across a broad power band and up to 212 lb/ft of torque. This is mated to a continuously variable transmission.

Despite its size, the Highlander launches quickly and enjoys a strong, linear flow of power. This hybrid is no wimp, but quickly loses the fuel-saving benefits of its green powerplant when you mash the pedal.

The Highlander Hybrid is less about compromise and more about delivering the benefits you'd expect from an SUV — with few of the downsides. And it shouldn't attract the scorn of your chardonnay-sipping downtown friends, who may even invite you to their own big-box shopping adventure.

smart adds shades of grey

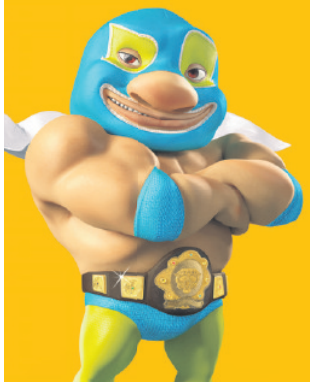
NEW MODEL smart Canada is continuing its series of special edition models with the introduction of the smart fortwo edition greystyle.

Limited to just 50 units in Canada, the smart fortwo edition greystyle coupe starts from $21,750, and the cabriolet starts from $24,750. Striking accents and an exclusive matte grey finish combine to create a modern appearance for this latest edition to the smart line-up that is now on sale at dealerships across the country.

In Canada, the greystyle edition models are powered by the fuel-efficient 70 hp gasoline engine that offers excellent fuel economy and low vehicle emissions.

In fact, Natural Resources Canada has named the smart fortwo as the most fuel-efficient vehicle in the two-seater class for three consecutive years.

The interior features an exclusive combination of fabric and leather with yellow accents and trim parts finished in yellow and matte chrome. The yellow accents are also found in the double stitching of the nappa leather seats, which is the same leather used in premium Mercedes-Benz models. METRO NEWS SERVICES



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2010 Ram 3500 Crew Cab Laramie 4x4 shown.[§]

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Wise customers read the fine print: •, †, ±, § Month of the Ram Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused Ram models purchased between June 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010 from participating dealers. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change without notice. See participating dealer for complete details and conditions. • $36,980 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Ram 2500 Crew Cab® SXT 4x4 (26A+AGR+DSA+GPG+XFH) only and includes $6,000 Consumer Cash Discount. $26,980 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Ram 1500 Quad Cab® SXT 4x4 (24A+AGR+XFH) only and includes $8,250 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Quantities may be limited. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. See dealer for details. Dealers may sell for less. * Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2009/2010 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. † 0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and GMAC on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Example: 2010 Ram 2500 Crew Cab® SXT 4x4 (26A+AGR+DSA+GPG+XFH) 2010 Ram 1500 Quad Cab® SXT 4x4 (24A+AGR+XFH) with a Purchase Price of $36,980/$26,980 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $1027.22/$749.44; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $36,980/$26,980. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. ± Variable Prime Rate financing up to 84 months is offered on approved credit on most new 2010 vehicles to qualified retail customers through TD Financing Services and Royal Bank of Canada. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84 month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD and RBC Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer is not open to residents of Quebec. TD offer is not open to residents of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. See participating dealer for complete details. §2010 Ram 3500 Crew Cab Laramie 4x4 shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $58,195. 2010 Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT 4x2 shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $31,185. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes license, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. °Ram 1500 offers the most powerful V8 under 6.0 litres in its class. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license.

Biofuel promise in Nova Scotia
The next biofuel breakthrough might be coming from the Canadian east coast. A new project has been launched in Nova Scotia that could produce renewable fuels from algae on a large scale. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Jeep packs big power

Drivers drawn to Grand style

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 1999 to 2004
VEHICLE TYPE: 4x4
APPROXIMATED USED PRICE RANGE: $2,500 to $15,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: Some time before cute-utes and soft-roaders began taking over the Canadian utility vehicle scene, Jeep was putting down roots as a sought-after brand when real all-terrain capability and on-road comfort were priorities.

The Jeep Grand Cherokee was arguably the original luxury sport utility vehicle, and its last full generation was available from 1999 to 2007 packed with more features, off-road prowess and luxury than ever.

The 1999-2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee may not be thrifty but it performs like a true 4x4.

Second Gear

With advanced four-wheel drive, available V8 power and plenty of luxurious extras, there's bound to be a Jeep Grand Cherokee in the used market for virtually any shopper.

Standard power came from a 195-horsepower, four-litre straight six, which is argued to be one of the most reliable American engines of all time. This unit was replaced by a 3.7 litRE V6 later in the last-generation Grand Cherokee's life.

Should either six-cylinder workhorse not provide enough snap for your needs, a 4.7 liter V8 was also available, with 235 or 265 horsepower, depending how new a model you're considering.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: No surprises here: capability, cargo room and all-season driving confidence were the main draws of the Grand Cherokee. Styling, performance and power were also highly rated.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Typical Grand Cherokee complaints include vague steering, a noisy mechanical cooling fan, a bouncy ride, and of course, hefty fuel consumption.

COMMON ISSUES: For the most part, the Grand Cherokee's driveline hardware was trouble-free and reliable. Problems with engines, transmissions and transfer cases look few and far between, though several important checks should be considered mandatory before agreeing to purchase a used model.

Ensure all windows operate in both directions as expected — otherwise a window-regulator replacement may be on the horizon. Ensure brakes are up to par too– and that there's no shuddering or squealing while driving or stopping. A mechanic can assess the condition of the Grand Cherokee's braking system in a few minutes.

THE VERDICT: A non-abused and well-maintained last-generation Grand Cherokee isn't the thriftiest way to travel, though it remains a popular used 4x4 buy for owners who need plenty of power and prowess.

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz
WILL RETURN

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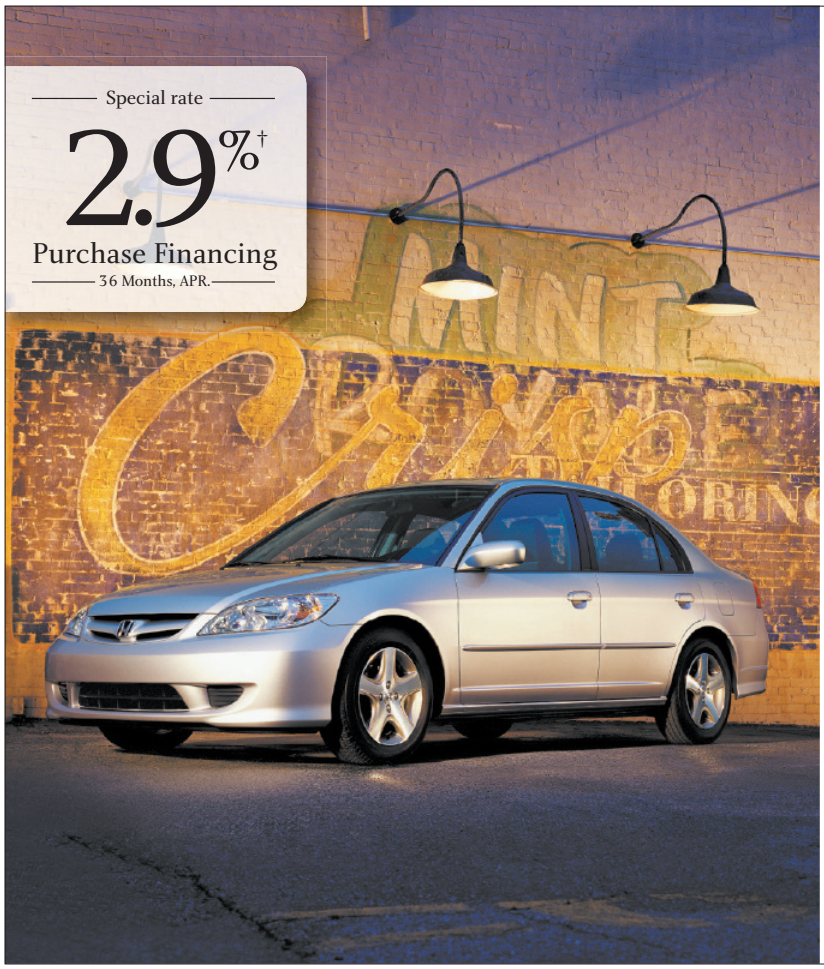

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†Limited time financing offer on all Honda Certifed Used Civics available through Honda Financial Services, on approved credit. Offer only available up to 36 months on Honda Certified Used Honda Civics (2005–2009 model years). Finance example based on 2005 model: $10,000 at 2.9% per annum equals $290.37 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $453.42 for a total obligation of $10,453.42. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and fees are not included. See your Honda dealer for full details. Dealer may sell for less. Offer expires June 30, 2010.

Audi cars communicating with traffic lights
Audi has expanded its experimental Travolution project to enable vehicles to communicate directly with traffic light systems, using wireless LAN and UMTS links. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Under spell of Spyder

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

It's all about the roof.

The $72,900 2011 Porsche Boxster Spyder, a lightweight "speedster" version of the Boxster S, is defined by a two-piece, manually installed fabric top that is ... how shall I put this ... a complete pain in the butt to erect.

With more snaps, hooks and buckles than a Goth boot store, and an install time of about four minutes (after some practice), you, and the Spyder's interior will be assured of a good soaking if caught in a downpour.

I mention this only because if you don't "get" the roof, you won't "get" the Spyder. This is a highly focused little sled that takes the Boxster's divine balance, steering feel, and engine response, and ramps it up a few notches. Convenience be damned. Think of the Spyder as the Boxster experience in high definition — a fair weather ticket to some serious driving fun.

The car's visual signature is that oh-so-sexy long rear deck with the twin fairings, a nod to the 1954 Spyder racer of James Dean infamy.

The mid-mounted dry-sump 3.4 litre flat-six puts out 320 hp and 273 lb.-ft. of torque (each up 10 units from the standard Boxster S) and the car sits 20mm lower on springs that are 10 per cent stiffer in front and 30 per cent in the rear.

And so I found myself touring the winding roads of the Niagara Wine Region on a perfect Spyder day – warm and sunny. Yes, this car is very quick, but even within the bounds of legality, the Spyder's near telepathic reading of your intentions makes for a stirring drive.

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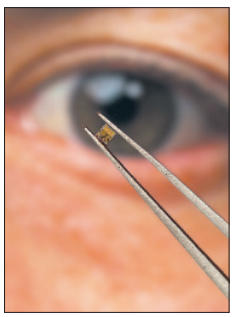

Advanced microprocessors can make cars more intuitive and safer to drive.

IBM researchers on trail of 'cognitive car'

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

It's said that the average car today has more computing power than the rocket that put a man on the moon.

A new research project by IBM and McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., is working on the theory of a "cognitive car" that will connect the vehicle's multiple microprocessors, which currently work in isolation, to provide important information for the driver.

Such a car might predict vehicle failures before they happen, save fuel by sending the driver on less-congested routes, or even "talk" to other cars behind it to warn about hazardous road conditions up ahead.

"The average car has a minimum of 20 microprocessors, all connected with multiple networks," says Don Aldridge, general manager of research and life sciences at IBM Canada.

"The objective is to eliminate as many of the separate devices as possible and consolidate them into one, if we can."

Driving Force

As mainstream electric cars get closer to their market launch, such microprocessors could be used to help drivers charge their cars at optimum times.

"One of the challenges of electric vehicles will be fear of running out of juice," Aldridge says. "By tying into a simple GPS requirement, it would give options for charging wherever I happen to be. You also start tying into the system — am I potentially charging at a peak time, or not? The system should be smart enough to give you guidance and minimize the cost."

Classical in California

Experience the spectacular landmarks and natural beauty of California to the tune of live classical music performed by preeminent musicians from around the world at the 40th Annual Festival Mozaic (festivalmozaic.com), July 15- 25, 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Best of the best all-inclusive resorts

From California to French Polynesia, from Jamaica to New Zealand, travel experts Jay Paris and Carmi Zona-Paris have traveled the globe in search of the ultimate in all-inclusive experiences. In the book, The 100 Best All-Inclusive Resorts of the World, the Parises bring you resorts with superior accommodations, excellent service, and a variety of on-site activities and entertainment — all for one price and with no hidden costs. You can find their book on Amazon.com for $17.95. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Masai Mara offers unparalleled views of Kenya.

Crossing Kenya's open plains

Masai Mara's unique wildlife reserve arguably Africa's finest

NICK BOULOS
Metro World News

METRO WORLD NEWS

The marshlands are home to leopards, elephants and rhinos.

Of all the places to stop, this was surely the least sensible.

Climbing out of our open-sided jeep as the whispery blades of grass of the Masai Mara crunched under foot and with nobody but my guide Charles in sight, I suddenly felt rather apprehensive.

Very apprehensive, in fact.

This was, after all, lion country. And buffalo country. And let's not forget the rest of the Big Five that call these marshlands home: leopards, elephants and rhinos. They — as well as countless other creatures — roam this 1510sq km protected reserve freely.

I had already become well accustomed to chancing upon a pride of lions in the most unlikely of places during our thrilling game drives, so I was understandably worried about my surroundings and what might be lurking nearby.

"Are you sure it's safe to just roam around like this?" I asked Charles as he fetched a hamper from the back of our jeep parked under the only tree to be found anywhere in sight.

He nodded reassuringly, but somewhat contradicted himself by casually mentioning that the tree under which we were standing is the official residence of the area's leopard.

I glanced skyward to see the stripped pelt of a gazelle lying on a branch and deep claw marks etched into the trunk. Sitting discarded on the parched ground was the chalk-white skull of a zebra. The Mara spread out before us silently. Zebras and waterbucks grazed just yards away as the sun dipped beneath the hills in the far distance.

Thousands flock to the Masai Mara — arguably Africa's most famous wildlife reserve, an hour's flight from Nairobi — to catch a glimpse of the zebra and wildebeest migration. In July, millions of the animals risk death by crossing the murky, crocodile-infested Mara River to reach the Serengeti in Tanzania.

Roam this protected reserve

But travel at the right time and you'll have this entire wilderness to yourself. Or so it feels.

In October, for example, the bumpy tracks that criss-cross the Mara are blissfully devoid of other jeeps. The next day, we chanced upon a cheetah feasting on a recent kill, a scared male lion stalking a wildebeest and a herd of elephants making slow progress across the horizon. Lady Luck was shining upon us as we tracked down Olive the leopard just hours before I was due to leave. Lounging majestically across a high branch and well camouflaged, her piercing amber eyes stared down at us intently.

I could've sat there all day studying her majestic coat and twitching tail. And reassuringly, it was a different tree from the one we stopped at just a few hours before.

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London life won't come cheap

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

There are so many must-do's in this city it's hard to know where to start.

Here's a warp-speed guide: Tower of London — beautiful-looking but a bit dull inside, Buckingham Palace — fascinating and hey, the Queen lives here, British Museum — one of the world's best, but don't expect to find anything British inside, Big Ben — a no-brainer London vacation photo, Greenwich — you'll feel an irrepressible urge to stand astride the Greenwich Meridian, Natural History, Science Museums — possibly the greatest free attractions on the planet. and a Thames riverboat trip — great value, informative and usually a load of laughs.

Oh, and they have pubs. Lots of pubs.

I'VE BEEN BEFORE — WHAT'S NEW?

What could be more British than Tea at The Ritz?

This piano-accompanied ritual, in the quintessential elegance of the most famous hotel in town, is nothing less than an institution.

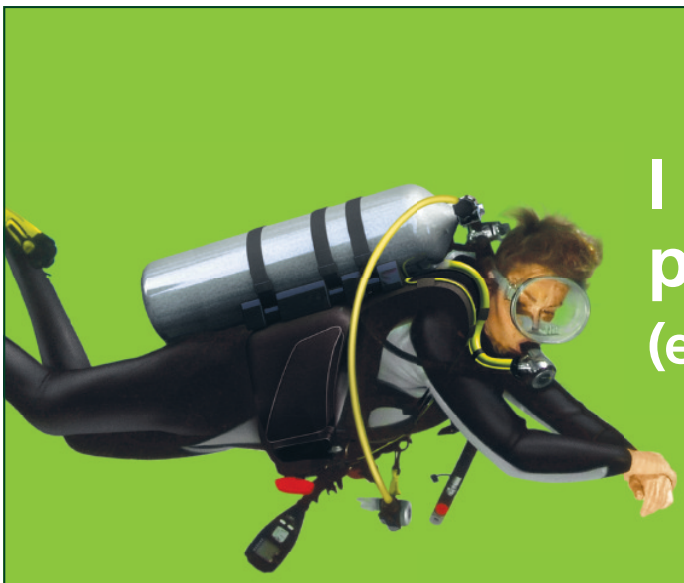
It's so popular that you must book at least one month in advance. Afterwards wander down to another British institution Fortnum & Mason's in Piccadilly to slaver over one of the most extensive and delicious ranges of food on earth. In both cases you'll probably end up hitting the credit card hard — quality doesn't come cheap in London.

WHAT'S THE NIGHTLIFE LIKE?

Legendary. Too many clubs to list but don't miss Fabric in Clerkenwell for hardcore house, Koko in Camden for gigs and big DJ's, Punk in Soho for, er, everything and Floridita, in Wardour Street, for a night of very 'in' Latin dancing.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Big Ben is an easy vacation photo but London has much more.



I paid for a resort in paradise with TD Points (even the scuba lessons).

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All aboard Johnny Depp's yacht — only $170,000 for two weeks.

Catch a glimpse of super-rich vacations

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

If you really want to see the world then you may as well do it in the penthouse suite on one of the world's finest passenger vessels complete with your own personal butler. A snip at $216,000.

Or how about a week playing Pirates of the Caribbean on Johnny Depp's very own boat? Hell, make it a fortnight, it's a bargain at $170,000.

Bit pricey? If you're a billionaire feeling the pinch you could always downsize to week in Mick Jagger's villa in Mustique — a giveaway at $11,500.

They sound insane, but these are the jaw-dropping vacation options of the super-rich.

You don't like sailing? Then step forward Bruce Willis and illusionist David Copperfield.

Johnny's boat

- Johnny Depp
burgessyachts.com

Action flick hero Bruce has a $6,500-per-night five bed villa on the beautiful Parrot Cay, in Turks and Caicos, in the Caribbean — incidentally a big favourite of designer Donna Karan.

Copperfield goes one better. He has a whole bay named after him — naturally enough it's called Copperfield Bay and it's part of Musha Cay in the Bahamas.

The beachfront villas are described as "so private you'll seem to disappear."What will also disappear is any sense of reality as this luxury costs a staggering $30,000-per-day.

Get Beach Chic

Book a value-packed hotel vacation package with JetBlue Getaways in Florida staring June 16 at jetblue.com/vacations. Guests will receive a free, customized Beach Chic vacation starter kit. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Seeing Europe on two wheels

Metro finds the best cycling tours available across the pond

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

METRO WORLD NEWS

The Turquoise Coast Cycle tour offers some of the best views of Europe.

METRO WORLD NEWS

You can island hop with Adriatic Islands Cycle tour.

Sometimes the very best way to get a real feel for a country is to take to two wheels and get around under your own steam.

You're not insulated like in a car, and you aren't restricted to someone else's agenda as with public transport. And, as any cyclist will tell you, a biking holiday will get you talking to the locals like nothing else.

Here are our current favourites.

ALPINE CYCLE

An Alpine cycling adventure without the pain. Head for the Salzburger lakeland, where you'll get the fresh air and the scenery but little of the uphill agony.

The routes tend to be trace gentle loops around shorelines of Fuschlsee and Wolfgangsee.

Attractions include the cog railway up Schafberg, the Mozart museum in St Gilgen and the church in Mondsee, which played a starring role in The Sound of Music. A good base is the Salzburger Dolomitenhof Hotel which is offering three day tours from $159.

ADRIATIC ISLANDS CYCLE

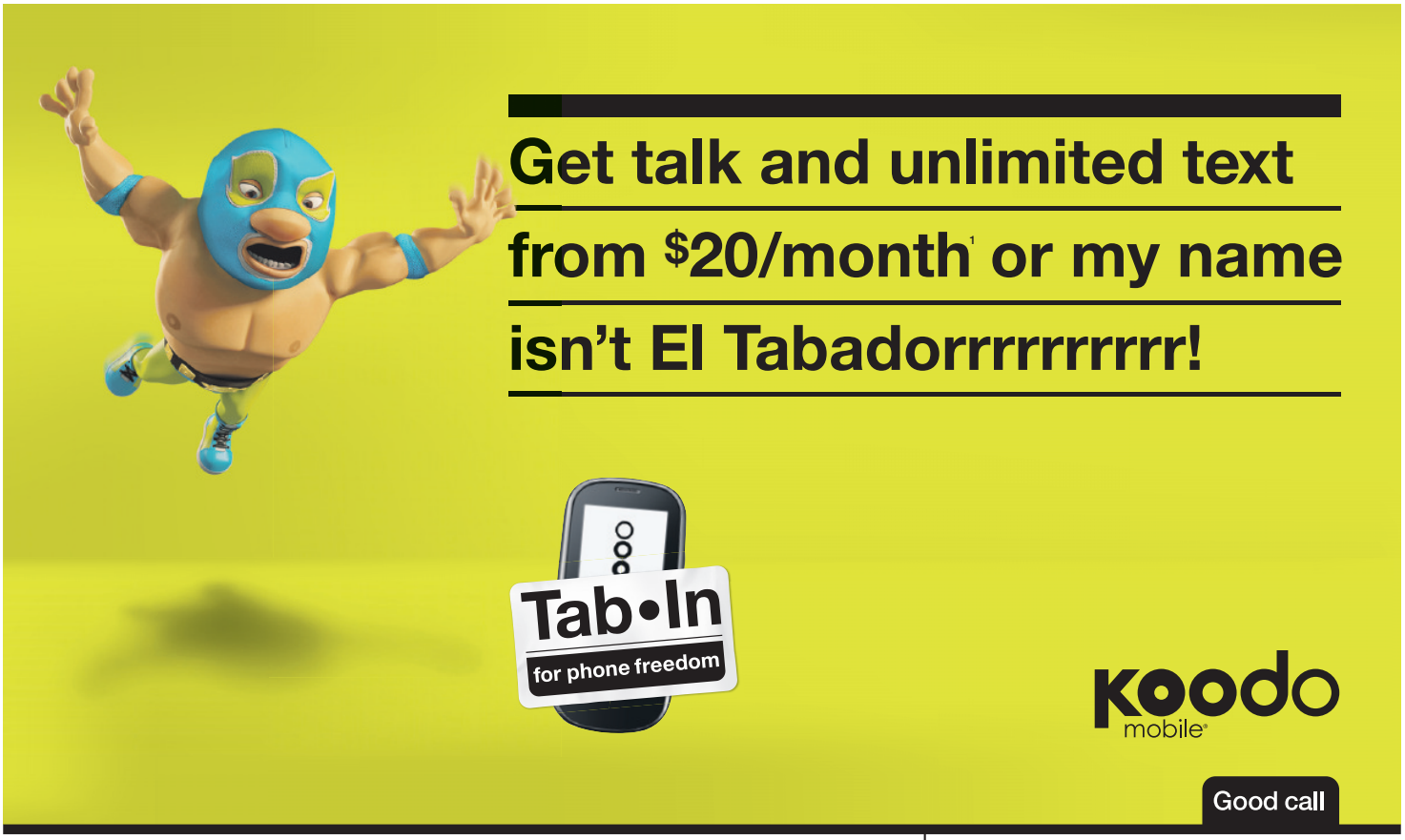
With 1,185 offshore islands scattered in clear blue water along a complicated 1,104-mile coastline a boat an bike combo is a fascinating and thrilling way to explore the region.

Try the one-week, 15 stop Island Hopping by Bicycle in Central and Southern Dalmatia tour at adriatica.net

TURQUOISE COAST CYCLE

There are few better ways to experience the beauty of the Gökova Region and get closer to Aegean culture than on two wheels. Try the Akyaka Weekly Bike Tour, a fairly easy cycle suitable for a family holiday. Riders set out from Akyaka before cycling into many traditional villages and bazaars and enjoying breathtaking views over Sedir Island and the Gökova Gulf.

Cost: $195 (accommodation extra) with Turkish Turquoise Coast Guide at turkuaz-guide.net



Swim with the fishes

Mexico's Third Annual Whale Shark Festival.kicks off July 16 in Isla Mujeres, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Visitors will be encouraged to swim with the fishes in the latest tours. Find out more at cevichetours.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Noise drifts away behind these headphones

Whether you're trying to drown out the sound of the rain battering your tent on a windswept moor or just trying to silence the baby in row 15 who's been screaming since take-off, a decent pair of headphones can be a traveller's best friend.

We've picked out our winners in each price band.

UNDER $50
Sennheiser CX-300-II

sennheiser.com

These are not really noise-cancelling headphones but they are just so stunningly good that they have to be in.

Swap the lame headphones bundled with your MP3 and you'll feel you've been listening to your favourite tracks through cotton wool. Buckets-full of thumping bass and spine-tingling detail together with super-exciting timing and dynamics make these headphones probably the best value piece of hi-fi available. A steal.

UNDER $100
Altec Lansing Backbeat Titanium

(Alteclansing.com)

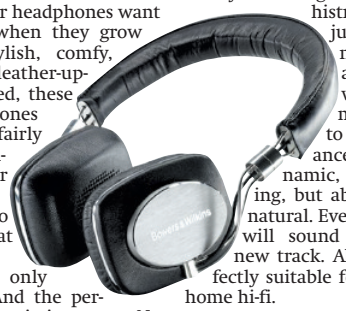
Another pair of noise-isolators rather than noise-cancellers that turn in a fine sonic performance.

The four pairs of neoprene ear-tips include one with extra wide flange which helps block out the outside world. But the sound is the key here. The 10Hz — 20kHz frequency response really digs deep into those bass notes and the top end just sparkles. A top find.

UNDER $250
B & W P5

(bowers-wilkins.com)

The daddy of headphones for music on the move. The P5's are what all other headphones want to be when they grow up. Stylish, comfy, and leather-upholstered, these headphones are fairly substantial for travel but do fold flat and weigh only 195g. And the performance is immense. No showy but tiring high end histrionics just the music as it was meant to be, balanced, dynamic, exciting, but above all natural. Every song will sound like a new track. Also perfectly suitable for your home hi-fi.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

I paid for a last-minute flight to Paris with TD Points
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METRO WORLD NEWS

Battle the crowds, Florence is worth the wait.

Learn why Florence continues to flourish

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

This Italian gem is a chianti classic. Metro finds the places and spaces to visit.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME — WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Although most places are swarming with tourists, some are a must, no matter how long the ticket queue. Gape in awe at the genius that is Brunelleschi's Cathedral, 'Duomo' and then shuffle your way through the camera-clad crowd to Michelangelo's ethereal marble statue of the biblical hero 'David' and don't miss the Ponte Vecchio bridge.

I'VE BEEN BEFORE — WHAT SHOULD I TRY?

The Uffizi Gallery is one of the most important centres for Renaissance art with work by Raphael, Michelangelo and Titian. For sweeping views of the Arno Valley and dome-studded city head to the hilltops over at Piazzale Michelangelo.

WHERE CAN I SHOP?

Mercato Centrale (Via del Ariento) is paradise for foodies. Wonderful local produce including balsamic vinegar, olive oil, and cheese is magnificently stacked at each stall. If you want to get serious head to Via Turnabuoni for classic Italian labels such as Prada, Pucci and Gucci.

WHAT'S THE NIGHTLIFE LIKE?

Fabio Picchi's Teatro del Sale is an eclectic combination of theatre, trattoria and member's clubs is a great place to spend the night. On stage, you might find yourself listening to a poetry reading, musical or piano set.

Stieg stories discovered

Two early science fiction stories by the late crime novelist Stieg Larsson have been uncovered at the Swedish National Library in Stockholm. Library spokesman Hakan Farje says it received the two short stories as a private donation in 2007. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Most Wanted

Entertainment Weekly is reporting Canadian Ryan Reynolds is reteaming with his The Proposal co-star, Sandra Bullock, for an action comedy with the working title Most Wanted.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Soldiers of fortune

The A-Team remake ready to rip up the big screen

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Bradley Cooper readily admits his favourite part of making the big-screen adaptation of The A-Team was working with Liam Neeson. The Oscar-nominated actor, who plays team leader Hannibal opposite Cooper's Face, elevated the entire production, he insists.

"You can't really argue with the talent and ability and experience, which is what he brought to the movie," Cooper says. "It's like if you step on a court with Michael Jordan, the court's going to feel different. He raised everyone's game."

But Neeson is quick to point out he had some learning to do himself, especially when it came to improvisation — something Cooper does a lot. One particular day of shooting comes to mind for Neeson: "This scene starts that's not on the page," he remembers. "Bradley starts this improv, and I'm going, 'What the hell is this? What is going on?' And then it would come to my line, and I'd forget my line because I was so busy watching Bradley and (director) Joe (Carnahan) getting off on each other. So it was terrifying, the first few days. I can't do that s—. I'm an old traditionalist. I like to learn my lines and deliver them."

The A-Team opens Friday

Improvisation aside, Neeson speaks highly of the experience of making The A-Team — but he also admits there were drawbacks to working on such a big project. "It's a big studio movie, and of course there's a lot of studio input," Neeson says. "Every time we changed a semicolon, a comma, of course it had to be passed through the studio. That would get frustrating, personally speaking. Very frustrating."

For mixed martial arts fighter Quinton "Rampage" Jackson, stepping into the role of B.A. Baracus made famous by Mr. T was a point of honor more than anything else.

"There's no way I was going to come and try and outdo Mr. T," Jackson says. "I figured that if I just be myself and put myself in there, maybe the fans will accept me, because I'm such a big fan."

With The A-Team being Jackson's first major movie role, he could be excused for being a little nervous going up against the likes of Neeson and Cooper. But he managed to keep his cool, he insists — except once.

"My first scene working with Liam, when he carjacked me in the van, scared the living daylights out of me," Jackson says. "I'm from the hood. I've been shot at before, I've had a gun put to my head. But Liam scared the hell out of. He put this gun to my head, and I almost pissed myself."

Rounding out the team is South African actor Sharlto Copley, the breakout star of last year's District 9, who signed on to play loose-cannon pilot Murdoch. Possibly the biggest fan of the series in the cast, Copley found making The A-Team almost like a vacation. District 9 was very grueling, and the role was quite heavy at times emotionally. I found this actually very easy," he says, comparing the two films. "My part was the smallest of the four, so I had a lot of downtime in my trailer. I had lemurs visiting in my trailer, and had them turn it into a little petting zoo. I mean, these things you do on these big movies."

Bradley Cooper, from left, Sharlto Copley, Liam Neeson and Quinton "Rampage" Jackson star in The A-Team.

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 6/9/10	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey		News	22 Minutes	Laughs	Little Mosque	CBC News: The National		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	So You Think You Can Dance (N) (CC)				CSI: NY "Second Chances"		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	The Practice (CC)		Third Watch "Snow Blind"		P3	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House (CC)		Glee (CC)		The Brothel Project (N) (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Canada's Worst Driver (CC)		Old Christine	The Middle	Happy Town (N) (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	America's Got Talent (CC)		America's Got Talent (CC)		Family	Cougar Town	EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	Engagement	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY "Second Chances"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	NHL Hockey		To Be Announced						KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Kim	How Clean	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Cupcake Girls	Cupcake Girls	Nightwaves (2003, Drama) Sherilyn Fenn.		
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle	The Middle	Family	Cougar Town	(:01) Happy Town (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	28 KVOS	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Cadillac Man ★★ (1990) Robin Williams, Tim Robbins.				Seinfeld	King	Cold Case
	291	383	27 PBS	Great American Songbook Popular composers and lyricists.				Carole King -- James Taylor Live at the Troubadour (CC)				Creation
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance (CC)				Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Jimmy Sturr-Orchestra		Our Polish Story Detroit's Polish Americans.			Change Your Brain, Change Your Life (CC)			
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Sheer Cover	Street Court	Cold Case
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		KTLA 5 News at 10 Ohlman.		Friends (CC)
	295	651	55 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	57 WPX	PIX News at Ten (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Doc Zone "Bio Dad" (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Teams TBA. (Joined in Progress) (Subject to Blackout) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	Poker		Poker		SportsCentre
	411	457	43 OLN	UFO Hunters (CC)		Destination Truth (CC)		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		UFO Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Wrecked	Wrecked	NASCAR
	416	409	144 GLF	S. Shrines	Off the Pitch	Toronto FC Game In and Hour		Gol TV News	Foot Brazil	Paid Program	60 Plus	
family	552	543	25 YTV	That's-Weird	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	Survive This	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny-Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Aaron Stone	That's-Raven
	553	546	58 TRE	Little Bear	Toopy	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Rivers	Wild at Heart	The Story of India		Royal Winnipeg Ballet: 40		Flamenco-5:15	Delicate Battle	Chiefs (CC)
	575	583	20 CMT	CMT Music	Lady	Lady Antebellum: One on One		2010 CMT Music Awards Celebrating the best videos in country music.				
	570	580	24 MM	(6:00) VideoFlow		UR11		I Was 17	I Was 17	I Was 17	I Was 17	MuchMeg
	600	564	29 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Bang, Buck	Property Shop	Flipping Out (CC)		House
	615	520	31 A&E	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Exterminator
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) The Ultimate Fighter (N)		UFC Unleashed (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter				Trek: Voyager
	521	560	34 TLC	Toddlers & Tiaras (N) (CC)		Pregnant	Pregnant	Toddlers & Tiaras (CC)		Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Kate Plus 8
	616	522	39 SHO	Tom Stone "For the Money"		Every Second Counts (2008, Drama) Stephen Collins. (CC)				Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber		
	620	523	40 BVO	White Collar (CC)		Law & Order "Refuge" (CC)		Without a Trace "Win Today"		White Collar (CC)		Red Shoe
	601	562	41 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Whatever	Housewives/OC		Housewives/NYC		Projct Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday (CC)		Mighty Ships "USS Kentucky"		Deadly Catch
	522	506	44 HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	MysteryQuest "Stonehenge"		Ice Road Truckers (N) (CC)		Nostradamus Effect (CC)		Outlaw Bikers
	627	528	45 SPC	Medium "Psych" (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Moebius"		Doctor Who (CC)		Merlin (CC) (DVS)		Medium (CC)
	294	650	47 TBS	Meet, Browns	Meet, Browns	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Colin & Justin		Hoarders (CC)		Runaway Squad (N)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	TV -Torrens
	603	561	52 FN	Chopped "Fired Up!" (CC)		Chef School	Chef School	Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Chopped "Fired Up!" (CC)		Chef School
	-	-	53 AMC	The Specialist	True Lies ★★★ (1994, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold. (CC)						Breaking Bad (CC)	
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore	Hot Box	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:20) Global Metal (2008) (CC)		Is Anybody There? ★★ (2008) Michael Caine.			(:45) Battle in Seattle ★★ (2007) André Benjamin. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	The City	After	MTV Live	Sex News	Downtown	The Hills	The City	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	ideaCity	Twist of Faith	Doc "All in the Family" (CC)		Convicts ★★ (1991, Drama) Robert Duvall, Lukas Haas. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Wang Gui	Immortal	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

critics' corner

CSI: NY

When a recovering drug addict with a lot to live for is found dead in an alley, Mac (Gary Sinise) and the team learn he may have been the victim of a premeditated plot in "Second Chances." Vanessa Minnillo, Kim Kardashian, Lala Vazquez and Pat Monahan of the Grammy-winning group Train guest star; Melina Kanakaredes, Carmine Giovinazzo, Hill Harper and Eddie Cahill also star. 10 PM on CBS CTV

Happy Town

Already eager to flee Haplin after her terrifying kidnapping experience, Rachel (Amy Acker) becomes even more upset by John Haplin's (Steven Weber) pressure to remember her ordeal. Detective Hobbs (Robert Wisdom) suspects Greggy Stivi-letto (Warren Christie) knows the truth about who severed the hand that turned up at the bakery. Geoff Stults also stars in the new episode "This Is Why We Stay." 9 PM on VI, 10:01 PM on ABC

Attention: all aspiring TV hosts

TELEVISION Oprah Winfrey wants to give an undiscovered talent a chance to follow in her footsteps on her new cable network.

The talk show host is teaming up with reality TV producer Mark Burnett on a show searching for the next big TV personality. Your Own Show: Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network beginning in January, the same month of OWN's launch.

Winfrey is ending The Oprah Winfrey Show in September 2011 after 25 seasons.

In a phone interview from Los Angeles, Burnett — the man behind such shows as Survivor and The Apprentice — said the premise fits perfectly into what people like to watch: Regular people achieving extraordinary things.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

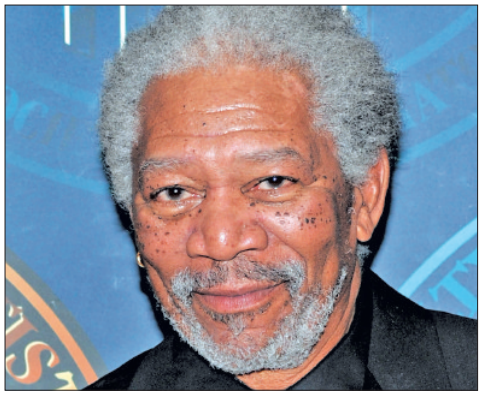
Science series tackles the tough questions

Actor Morgan Freeman didn't shy away from tough questions for his new Science Channel series about space exploration. On today's first episode he asks, "Was there a Creator?"

The question, as with most of the topics he discusses on the eight-episode series, is more likely to lead to more questions than it is to answers.

"What we're learning is we don't know a lot more than we do know," said Freeman, whose lifelong fascination with astronomy and space travel coincided with the Science Channel's effort to attract more attention to itself with the help of celebrities who bring a passion to their hobbies.

The Academy Award winner hosts and narrates the series, Through the Wormhole, and it was made by his production company.



Morgan Freeman — who often plays God onscreen — asks scientists the tough questions in his new Science Channel series.

Scientists are tapped to address issues like what happened before the creation of the universe, what dark matter is doing to the galaxies, whether time travel will someday be possible, what intelligent life might exist beyond Earth and how life began on Earth.

The issues discussed in Through the Wormhole are "heady stuff," but they're presented in an entertaining and engaging way, said Debbie Meyers, the network's general manager.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Striptease star will continue to expose herself

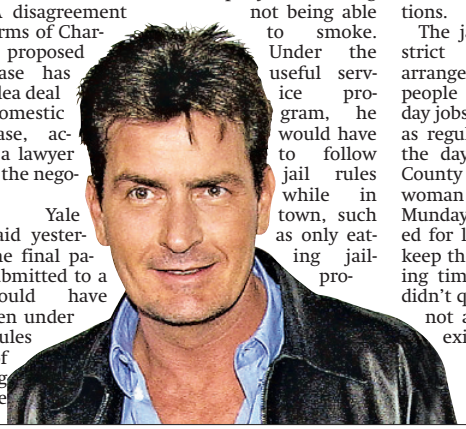
Demi Moore, an actress famous for showing all, will now tell all. HarperCollins announced Monday that it had acquired a "candid" memoir by the raspy-voiced star. The book will cover her life and career and is tentatively scheduled for release in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrity Buzz

Small details hamper Charlie's plea bargain

WHILE EQUAL JUSTICE GOES UP IN SMOKE A disagreement over the terms of Charlie Sheen's proposed work release has held up a plea deal in the domestic dispute case, according to a lawyer involved in the negotiations.

Attorney Yale Galanter said yesterday that the final paperwork submitted to a judge would have placed Sheen under stringent rules while out of jail working at theatre company, including not being able to smoke. Under the useful service program, he would have to follow jail rules while in town, such as only eating jail-provided meals, or face sanctions.

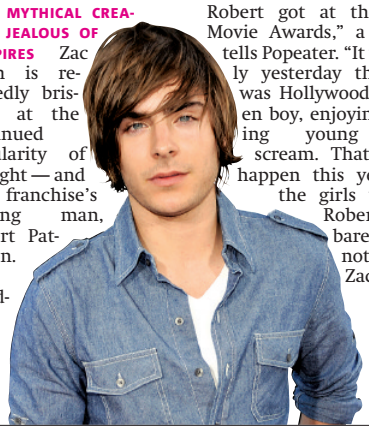


The jail also offers less strict work release arrangements, allowing people to report to their day jobs and essentially act as regular citizens during the day. However, Pitkin County sheriff's spokeswoman Deputy Marie Munday said that's intended for locals who need to keep their jobs while serving time. She said Sheen didn't qualify because he's not a resident with an existing job.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Efron has Edward envy

LOOKS LIKE JACOB ISN'T THE ONLY MYTHICAL CREATURE JEALOUS OF VAMPIRES Zac Efron is reportedly bristling at the continued popularity of Twilight — and the franchise's leading man, Robert Pattinson. "Zac couldn't believe the amount of attention Robert got at the MTV Movie Awards," a source tells Popeater. "It was only yesterday that Zac was Hollywood's golden boy, enjoying making young girls scream. That didn't happen this year. All the girls wanted Robert and barely even noticed Zac."



METRO WORLD NEWS

TV star opens up about bisexuality

STANDING UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF VAMPIRES WORLDWIDE After sneaking the revelation that she is bisexual into a public service announcement in April, Anna Paquin is opening up about the issue. "It wasn't like it was a big secret. It was just a cause I cared about and privately supported but not one that I had ever had an opportunity to speak out about in a way that would be useful," she tells Zap2it. "Obviously, as someone who identifies as bisexual, those are issues I really care about. And frankly, I don't see why everyone doesn't care about them," she says of Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Fund, which lobbies for equal rights issues.

The Oscar winner plays Sookie Stackhouse on hit HBO series True Blood, and is engaged to co-star Stephen Moyer.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Lohan: 0, SCRAM: 1

NEXT ITEM FROM LINDSAY'S BIG BOOK O' IMPROBABLE EXCUSES: MY ANKLET WENT OFF FROM THE ALCOHOL VAPOURS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S DRINKS. WATCH FOR IT IN 3, 2... One night out with her SCRAM alcohol-monitoring anklet, and Lindsay Lohan is already having problems. The device started flashing during Katy Perry's MTV Movie Awards after-party, an eyewitness tells Star magazine. "All of a sudden, her SCRAM ankle bracelet started flashing furiously — bright red, fast flashes — right through her boot," the source says. "She wasn't drinking or doing drugs that I saw. She didn't seem fazed whatsoever. I mean it was very obvious."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JESSICA SIMPSON makes the most important discovery of her life, **JOHN CUSACK** is trying to keep his eyes open, and **ELIZA DUSHKU** is trying to be the mature one

@JessicaSimpson I just might like Earth Balance more than butter thanks to one of my vegan friends

@johncusack friendship tour in china– jetlagged and ready for anything ..

@elizadushku Peace & forgiveness to the snarky girl on Sunset Blvd I just called an 'idiot' who then called me a '$*!,;+?' in return. All good!

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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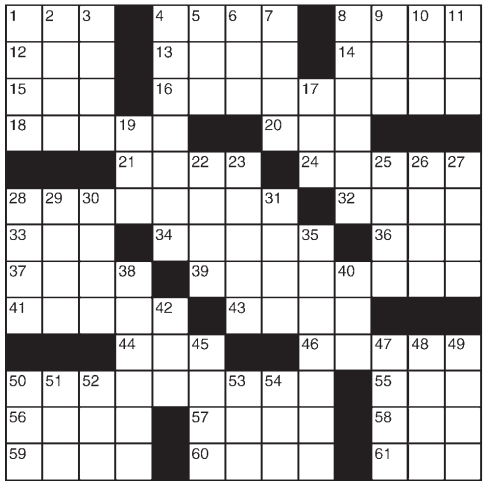
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Outdated
4 Woodpecker's feature
8 Bullets and such
12 Long March leader
13 Hodgepodge
14 Fly high
15 Doctrine
16 Percussion instrument
18 Larceny
20 Atl. counterpart
21 Tress
24 Possibly
28 Greek historian
32 Christmas refrain
33 Previous night
34 Monica of tennis
36 Tibetan bovine
37 Approach
39 Yellow
41 Opening stakes
43 Antitoxins
44 Take blades to blades
46 Bring out
50 Fan of things foreign
55 Spacecraft compartment
56 "— Rhythm"
57 Tackle texts
58 Strange
59 Aching
60 Troubles
61 Unfavorable vote

DOWN

1 Leave out
2 Whip
3 Cupola
4 Redeemable proofs-of-purchase, once
5 Actor Ron
6 Have a bug
7 Former surgeon general
8 Refuse receptacle
9 Cattle call?
10 Fellow
11 Raw rock
17 Singer Tillis
19 "Alice" waitress
22 Cereal used in "party mix"
23 Caffeine-rich nuts
25 Toy on a string
26 Suitor
27 BPOE members
28 TV's "Warrior Princess"
29 Divisible by two
30 Tidy
31 Hawaiian goose
35 Thoroughfares
38 Distant
40 Possessed
42 Bribe
45 "That's a relief!"
47 "Once — a time, ..."
48 Last few notes
49 Vortex
50 Greek consonants
51 Id counterpart
52 Neither mate
53 Altar affirmative
54 Whopper

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5			2		8			
2	3						7	4
	1			4		8		
	2		6	9				7
		3				6		
1				5	7		4	
		1		3			9	
3	7						1	2
			7		9			5

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

B	E	A	M	■	D	U	E	L
A	R	I	A	■	A	N	T	I
Y	A	R	D	S	T	I	C	K
■	■	■	M	E	E	T	■	E
E	M	C	E	E	■	■	A	N
L	O	A	N	■	L	O	W	E
B	A	R	■	C	O	D	E	D
A	N	D	R	O	I	D	S	■
■	■	S	U	M	S	■	■	R
O	C	H	E	R	■	G	E	E
B	O	A	■	A	A	R	D	V
O	A	R	■	D	R	A	G	■
E	L	K	■	E	M	M	Y	■

H	E	M	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	T	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	U	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	D	D	I	E	■	■	■	■
A	N	E	W	■	■	■	■	■
E	R	I	N	G	■	■	■	■
R	O	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	E	S	A	■	■	■	■	■
I	D	E	R	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	R	K	S	■	■	■	■	■
D	E	E	P	■	■	■	■	■
O	D	A	Y	■	■	■	■	■

6	4	9	5	2	7	1	8	3
8	2	5	4	3	1	7	6	9
3	7	1	9	6	8	5	2	4
5	3	8	2	1	6	9	4	7
2	9	7	8	4	5	6	3	1
4	1	6	7	9	3	2	5	8
1	8	2	3	5	9	4	7	6
7	6	4	1	8	2	3	9	5
9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tex-Mex Picadillo

INGREDIENTS:

500 g lean ground beef
2 cloves garlic, minced
540 ml can stewed tomatoes, undrained and cut up
1 medium-size apple, unpeeled and chopped
4 large green onions with tops, finely sliced
1/3 cup raisins
1/4 cup water
2 tbsp chopped pimento-stuffed green olives
1 tbsp minced pickled jalapeño
1 tbsp vinegar
1 tsp sugar
1/2 tsp celery seeds
1/2 tsp each ground cinnamon and ground cumin
1/4 tsp each salt and black pepper
1/8 tsp ground cloves

METHOD:

1. In skillet, cook ground beef and garlic over moderately high heat until meat is browned. Drain off fat.

2. Stir in tomatoes, apple, green onions, raisins, water, olives, jalapeño pepper, vinegar, sugar, celery seeds, cinnamon, cumin, salt, black pepper and cloves.

3. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, 20 minutes. Serve over hot cooked rice.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Today's cosmic picture promises a surprise of some sort, and while there is nothing to fear it might be wise to stay on good terms with family and friends.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You must stay impartial, no matter how committed you may be to a particular viewpoint or set of beliefs.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You would be wise not to believe everything you see and hear over the next 24 hours. Could it be that someone is trying to trick you?

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Why are some issues so hard to get your head around? Whatever the reason you will have to battle against chaos and confusion. It's a battle you can, and must, win.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You are not responsible for other people's failings, nor should you help them too much. The last thing you want is for them to come to rely on you.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Set yourself targets you know you will be able to reach and allow yourself plenty of time to relax. And don't panic if you find yourself behind schedule.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Your latest idea may be a great one but a friend or colleague can see something about it that you have missed.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Why do so many people insist on seeing only the negative side of your proposals? Don't let it worry you. You'll make it happen, with or without them.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
It is impossible for even an astrologer to predict how a certain situation will work itself out, so err on the side of caution.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may not want to give someone a hard time over a mistake but if you let them get away with it they might make even bigger mistakes in the future.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Do you stick with what you know and trust or do you strike out in a radical and original direction? It's all about new.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You seem to be of the opinion that nothing can possibly go wrong in your life and you are probably right. But don't take anything for granted.

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